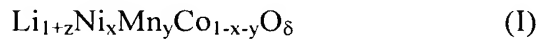


IN THE CLAIMS

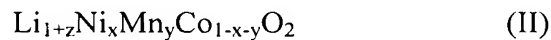
The status of each claim in the present application is listed below.

1. (Currently Amended) A powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide which is for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery, which has a composition represented by the following formula (I), having a volume resistivity of  $5 \times 10^5 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or lower in the state of being compacted at a pressure of 40 MPa, and having a value of C/S, wherein C is the concentration of carbon contained therein (% by weight) and S is the BET specific surface area thereof ( $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ), of 0.025 or smaller:



(wherein  $0.04 < z \leq 0.91$ ,  $0.1 \leq x \leq 0.55$ ,  $0.20 \leq y \leq 0.90$ ,  $0.50 \leq x+y \leq 1$ , and  $1.9 \leq \delta \leq 3$ ), and wherein the powder contains carbon.

2. (Original): A powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide which is for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery, characterized by having a composition represented by the following formula (II), having a volume resistivity of  $5 \times 10^5 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or lower in the state of being compacted at a pressure of 40 MPa, and having a value of C/S, wherein C is the concentration of carbon contained therein (% by weight) and S is the BET specific surface area thereof ( $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ), of 0.025 or smaller:



(wherein  $0 < z \leq 0.15$ ,  $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.55$ ,  $0.20 \leq y \leq 0.55$ , and  $0.50 \leq x+y \leq 1$ ), and wherein the powder contains carbon.

3. (Original): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein in formula (I) and formula (II), the value of  $y/x$ , which indicates Mn/Ni atomic proportion, is  $0.95 \leq y/x \leq 2.5$ .

4. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery according to claims claim 1 or 2, wherein the concentration of carbon contained therein, C, is 0.025% by weight or lower.

5. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery according to claim 1 or 2, which has a bulk density of 1.5 g/cc or higher, an average primary-particle diameter B of 0.1-3  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a secondary-particle median diameter A in the range of 3-20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery according to claim 1 or 2, which has a BET specific surface area of 0.2-2.5  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

7. (Previously Presented): A process for producing the powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery according to claim 1 or 2, which comprises pulverizing at least one nickel compound, at least one manganese compound, and at least one cobalt compound in a liquid

medium to an average particle diameter of 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  or smaller to prepare a slurry containing the compounds evenly dispersed therein, spray-drying the slurry to obtain a powder composed of secondary particles formed by the aggregation of primary particles, subsequently sufficiently mixing the powder with at least one lithium compound, and calcining the resultant mixture in an oxygenic gas atmosphere.

8. (Previously Presented): A positive electrode for lithium secondary battery, which comprises a current collector having thereon a positive-electrode active-material layer which comprises the powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide for use as a positive-electrode material for lithium secondary battery according to claim 1 or 2 and a binder.

9. (Original): A lithium secondary battery comprising a negative electrode capable of intercalating/deintercalating lithium, a nonaqueous electrolyte containing a lithium salt, and a positive electrode capable of intercalating/deintercalating lithium, wherein the positive electrode employed is the positive electrode for lithium secondary battery according to claim 8.

10. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the amount of carbon in the composite oxide is 0.020% by weight or lower.

11. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the amount of carbon in the composite oxide is 0.015% by weight or lower.

12. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the amount of carbon in the composite oxide is 0.010% by weight or lower.

13. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the volume resistivity is  $2 \times 10^5 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or lower in the state of being compacted at a pressure of 40 MPa.

14. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the volume resistivity is  $1 \times 10^5 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or lower in the state of being compacted at a pressure of 40 MPa.

15. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the volume resistivity is  $2 \times 10^4 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or lower in the state of being compacted at a pressure of 40 MPa.

16. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the volume resistivity is  $1 \times 10^4 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or lower in the state of being compacted at a pressure of 40 MPa.

17. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the value of C/S is 0.020 or smaller.

18. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the value of C/S is 0.017 or smaller.

19. (Previously Presented): The powder of a layered lithium-nickel-manganese-cobalt composite oxide of claim 1, wherein the value of C/S is 0.015 or smaller.